

Hastings District Soldiers of the Boer War

South Africa

1899 - 1902



National Boer War Memorial, Canberra A.C.T.

**Port Macquarie-Hastings Library
2023**

Introduction

From soon after its acquisition by Britain during the Napoleonic wars, the southern tip of Africa had been shared between British colonies and independent republics of Dutch–Afrikaner settlers, known as Boers. In order to escape British rule many Boers had moved north and east to settle on new lands which eventually became the Boer republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The relationship between the British and the Boers was an uneasy one, with Britain extending its control by annexing Natal in 1845, although London did recognise the two republics in two treaties in the 1850s. Throughout the nineteenth century tensions were often high, and in 1880–81 the two sides fought a war in which the Boers inflicted several costly defeats on the British army. Coupled with the advent of a new government in London reluctant to fight the war, this ensured that the Transvaal was able effectively to maintain its independence.

The discovery of gold and diamonds in the Boer republics in the 1880s further intensified the rivalry, particularly as British subjects flooded into the Boer territories in search of wealth. The rights of British subjects in Boer territory, British imperial ambition, and the Boer desire for to stay outside the British Empire all caused more friction, which in 1899 provoked the Boers to attack in order to forestall what they saw as an impending British conquest.

As part of the British Empire, the Australian colonies offered troops for the war in South Africa. Australians served in contingents raised by the six colonies or, from 1901, by the new Australian Commonwealth. For a variety of reasons many Australians also joined British or South African colonial units in South Africa: some were already in South Africa when the war broke out; others either made their own way or joined local units after their enlistment in an Australian contingent ended. Recruiting was also done in Australia for units which already existed in South Africa, such as the Scottish Horse.

Australians served mostly in mounted units formed in each colony before despatch, or in South Africa itself. The Australian contribution took the form of five waves. The first were the contingents raised by the Australian colonies in response to the outbreak of war in 1899, which often drew heavily on the men in the militia of the colonial forces. The second were the bushmen contingents, which were recruited from more diverse sources and paid for by public subscription or the military philanthropy of wealthy individuals. The third were the imperial bushmen contingents, which were raised in ways similar to the preceding contingents, but paid for by the imperial government in London. Then were then the draft contingents, which were raised by the state governments after Federation on behalf of the new Commonwealth Government, which was as yet unable to do so. Finally, after Federation, and close to the end of the war, the Australian Commonwealth Horse contingents were raised by the new federal government. These contingents fought in both the British counter-offensive of 1900, which resulted in the capture of the Boer capitals, and in the long, weary guerrilla phases of the war which lasted until 1902. Colonial troops were valued for their ability to shoot and ride, and in many ways performed well in the open war on the veldt. There were significant problems, however, with the relatively poor training of Australian officers, with contingents generally arriving without having undergone much training and being sent on campaign immediately. These and other problems faced many of the hastily raised contingents sent from around the empire, however, and were by no means restricted to those from Australia.

The Australians at home initially supported the war, but became disenchanted as the conflict dragged on, especially as the effects on Boer civilians became known.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P00220.001

Men from the 2nd South Australian (Mounted Rifles) Contingent, who fought in the Boer War. Third from left is Trooper Harry "The Breaker" Morant. South Africa, c. 1900.

The conflict in South Africa is generally divided into three phases:

1. The early phase, from October to December 1899, when the British armies, mainly infantry, were defeated or besieged by highly mobile Boer mounted troops
2. The second phase, from December 1899 until September 1900, which involved a British counter-offensive, resulting in the capture of most of the major towns and cities of South Africa
3. The third and longest phase, from September 1900 to May 1902, when the war was mainly a guerrilla conflict between British mounted troops and Boer irregulars.

The outbreak of war had long been expected in both Britain and Australia. Believing that conflict was imminent, Queensland had offered troops in July, and the same month Britain had requested the participation of New South Wales and Victoria. Each of the colonies ultimately sent between four and six contingents. The first groups arrived in South Africa between November 1899 and March 1900; the second between December 1899 and February 1900; the third between April and May 1900; and the fourth between May and June 1900. The 4th Tasmanian, 6th Queensland, South Australian, and Western Australian contingents did not reach South Africa until March–April 1901. A further three contingents were raised by the new Commonwealth in 1901, but as they did not embark until 1902, most arrived too late for any action. Indeed, some were still at sea when the war ended on 31 May 1902.

The first Australian troops arrived in South Africa in December 1899, too late to become involved in the serious British defeats of "black week" (10–17 December), when 2,300 men were killed or wounded by the Boers in three separate engagements. Five hundred members of the Queensland Mounted Infantry and the NSW Lancers took part in the relief of Kimberley in February 1900, and men of the NSW Mounted Rifles played a minor part in the last major battle of the war, at Paardeberg, in the same month. After a series of defeats in 1900 the Boer armies became fragmented, forming groups of highly mobile commandos which harassed British troop movements and lines of supply. Faced with this type of warfare, the British commanders became increasingly reliant on mounted troops from Britain and the colonies.

Conditions for both soldiers and horses were harsh. Without time to acclimatise to the severe environment and in an army with a greatly over-strained logistic system, the horses fared badly. Many died, not just in battle but of disease, while others succumbed to exhaustion and starvation on the long treks across the veld. Quarantine regulations in Australia ensured that even those which did survive could not return home. In the early stages of the war Australian soldier losses were so high through illness that components of the first and second contingents ceased to exist as viable units after a few months of service.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A04298

In the NSW Imperial Bushmen camp, South Africa, 1900.

In the second phase of the war, when the British forces captured the major South African towns, over-extended supply lines and inadequate food caused problems. Looting was widespread, and did not stop at the acquisition of bare essentials for men and their horses. Disease and epidemics also took a heavy toll. In early 1900 water contaminated by corpses and human waste infected the army during a period of rest in the captured town of Bloemfontein; 1,000 deaths resulted, mostly from typhoid.

After September 1900, by which time the war had become mainly a guerrilla conflict, Australian troops were deployed in sweeping the countryside and enforcing the British policy of cutting the Boer guerrillas off from the support of their farms and families. This meant the destruction of Boer farms, the confiscation of horses, cattle and wagons, and the rounding up of the inhabitants, usually women and children. These civilian captives were taken to concentration camps where, weakened by malnutrition, thousands died of contagious diseases. By mid-1901 the war for the Australians was characterised by long rides, often at night, followed by an attack on a Boer farmhouse or encampment (laager) at dawn. The skirmishes were often minor, involving small Boer forces quickly overwhelmed by superior numbers. There were occasional fights between the Australians and larger Boer forces, but encounters with Boer commandos were rare.

The experience of the NSW Mounted Rifles in the last five months of 1901 was said to be typical: they trekked almost 3,000 kilometres and were involved in 13 skirmishes for the loss of five dead and 19 wounded. They reported killing 27 Boers, wounding 15 and capturing 196. The men spent long periods in the saddle with few opportunities to bathe or change their clothes; lice were a constant problem. Temperatures on the veld ranged from relentless heat during the day to freezing cold at night.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P01866.006

Members of E Company, 5th Contingent, Victorian Mounted Rifles, in action against the Boers in front of the Pongola Bosch, October 1901.

It is generally thought that about 16,000 Australians fought in the Boer War. This figure includes those who enlisted in an Australian unit, as well as the many raised locally, but it does not allow for double-counting of those who served in two contingents. A small number of Australians are known to have fought on the Boer side. The nature of the conditions under which the war was fought can be deduced from the fact that in the Australian contingents, 282 died in action or from wounds sustained in battle, while 286 died from disease and another 38 died of accident or other unknown causes. Six Australians received the Victoria Cross in South Africa, and many others received other decorations.

A note on researching local enlistments

There is very little information available to research details of local men who served in the Boer Wars. Local historian Ian Symonds compiled a book of letters sent by local men from South Africa back to family in Port Macquarie (*Letters from the Boer War. Symonds, Ian 1999*). Ian also published brief details of some of the men who served in the War in articles in the Port Macquarie News in 1991. Apart from these efforts little research is known to have been done into the service records of the twenty-six men from the Hastings region who enlisted in the various regiments sent by the colonial government of New South Wales to South Africa, and whose names are inscribed on the Port Macquarie War Memorial.

The research for this publication was done initially by Sue O'Brien who then passed her research onto the Port Macquarie Library. Library staff members Karen Rowan Hodges and Jeff Stonehouse then continued Sue's work and used publicly available sources to flesh out more details. Sources used included:

Port Macquarie News and other newspapers

Ancestry.com & Find My Past

Australian War Memorial

National Archives of Australia

NSW Registry of Births, Marriages & Deaths

Ryerson Index

Port Macquarie People Database – Rex & Yvonne Toomey

Books held by the Port Macquarie library, including those by Ian Symonds

Using secondary sources to research such a topic is always going to rely on the veracity of those sources. Therefore, while all care was taken in the research process it is possible that some errors may have occurred, so any person who is able to add to this publication or correct any inaccuracies is welcome to contact the Port Macquarie Library.

Boer War Plaque on the Port Macquarie War Memorial



BALDWIN, John Henry (Corporal)

Service Number: 483

Date of Birth: 12 July 1877

Place of Birth: Port Macquarie

Enlisted: 31st March 1900

Unit: 3rd NSW Imperial Bushmen D Company

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 in Sydney

Parents: James Henry and Mary Jane Baldwin (*nee* Joyce)

Married: Married Agnes Agatha Purcell (1875-1948) at Bathurst in 1903

Died: 24th June 1948 at Smithfield

Notes: Private promoted to Corporal



OBITUARY

Mr. J. H. BALDWIN

The death occurred in Sydney on June 24, 1948, of Mr. John Henry Baldwin, in his 72nd year.

The deceased gentleman was born at Port Macquarie, being a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Baldwin. As a young man he was well known in the district, leaving here with a special contingent of mounted troopers to go to the South African war. On his return from service, he took up duty as a warder at Long Bay gaol, and on his retirement he was a senior warder.

The late Mr. Baldwin, well known to many local residents, was a brother of Mr. Geo. Baldwin, of Blackman's Point, who is the sole surviving member of a family of six.

John Henry Baldwin [No 18]



BALDWIN, John Henry.—June 24, 1948 (suddenly), at his residence, 35 Marlborough Street, Smithfield, and late of Malabar, beloved husband of the late Agnes Agatha Baldwin and dear father of Mary (Mrs. Dever), James, and John. Requiescat in pace. For funeral see Saturday's paper.

BOSANQUET, Lancelot George Vivian (Private)

Service Number: 335

Date of Birth: 25th September 1880

Place of Birth: Mackay, Queensland

Enlisted: by 4th April 1900

Unit: 3rd NSW Imperial Bushman

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 in Sydney

Parents: Commander George Stanley Bosanquet RN and Jane Mary Margaret Harriett Emma Bosanquet (aka Mary, *nee* Tate)

Married: Anne Kennedy (Annie) in 1905 in Port Macquarie and had five children

Date of death: 10th May 1962

Place of death: Pambula

Notes: Birth index shows surname as Bosanfuet. Lived at Comboyne. He was in charge of NSW Colonial Defence forces and in charge of Naval Artillery Volunteers and torpedo defences of Sydney Harbour for a number of years. He enlisted again on the 18th February 1916 in the AIF (Service No. 3021 7th light Horse) in WW1 and for a third time in WW2 in the CMF on 23rd December 1940. (for more information see 'Pioneers of Australian Armour in the Great War' by David Finlayson)



The Imperial Bushmen.

Amongst those selected to go to South Africa with the I.B. Contingent are -- Mr. Geo. Lancelot Bosanquet, son of Commander Bosanquet (N.A.V.), of Moorebank, a fine young fellow, who won his bush experience in Queensland; and Mr. Edward McKinley, brother to the well known Constable "Mac," of Smithfield. Mr. E. McKinley, who was born at "Lakelands," Illawarra, is now 26 years of age. He has been a stockman on Tinborro Station (one of the late Hon. J. Tyson's cattle stations), Queensland, for ten years, and has the reputation of being one of the finest riders in Queensland. Besides being a good rider, he is also an all round athlete.

The Imperial Bushmen left Kensington camp for Rookwood yesterday. The new camp is about half a mile from the railway station.

Lieutenant-Colonel MacKay, M.L.C., Vice-President of the Executive Council has been appointed to the command of the Bushmen. He is to select his subordinate officers. He will not resign the vice-presidentship of the Council until he leaves with his squadrons.

The Cumberland Argus and
Fruit Growers Advocate (Parramatta N.S.W.)
4th April 1900 p.2

Mr. Lancelot Bosanquet (married) has left the Comboyne to enlist. Mr. Bosanquet is an old South African soldier, and a descendant of a fine old English family. He is closely related to Admiral Bosanquet.

Richmond River Herald and Northern Rivers Advertiser
8th February 1916 p.3

BOURNE, Hastings Albert

Date of Birth: 28th February 1881

Place of Birth: Port Macquarie

Enlisted: Joined in South Africa

Unit: Transvaal Light Horse

Date of Embarkation: 18th April 1899

Embarked Ship: SS Moravian

Arrival: December 1905

Parents: John and Mary Theresa Bourne (*nee* McDonald)

Married: Amelia Susan Bartier at St Agnes Church Port Macquarie in 1930 and had three children.

Date of Death: 11th June 1966

Place of Death: Port Macquarie

Notes: Accompanied his brother James Bourne (James was caught in the conflict and evacuated through the war zone) to South Africa to work as a carpenter. Served with the commissariat department. Previously worked at Hayward and Jennings sawmill in Clarence street Port Macquarie



Hastings Bourne

OFF TO JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Jas. Bourne who has been on a visit to his parents here for a few months, from Johannesburg, left by the Rosedale on Tuesday morning last intending to return to Africa. He is to be followed in a few days by his brother Hastings, and also Mr. A. D. Woodlands, who are going to try their luck there. All three are to leave by the s.s. Moravian (White Star Line), which vessel leaves Sydney on April 14. Mr. C. Condon left a few weeks ago, and we understand it is his intention to return to Africa, too. We wish these young men *bon voyage*, and good luck in "in the land of the Boer."

CADDEN Reginald Naylor 'Reg' (Corporal)

Service Number: 319

Date of Birth: 1872

Place of Birth: Kiama district

Unit: Citizen Bushmen (Corporal)

Unit: 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles (Lieutenant)

Date of Embarkation: 28th February 1900

Embarked Ship: Atlantian or Maplemore

Parents: Hugh Reginald Charles and Emily May Cadden
(*nee* Naylor)

Date of Death: 16th September 1923

Place of Death: Randwick

Notes: Was a member of the Port Macquarie Rifle club

before the war. Served under General Plumer at the relief of Mafeking.

Served 2 years and 5 months in South Africa. Also served in WW1 with 10th Light Horse



CADDEN.—September 16, at Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Reginald Naylor, late Captain, A.I.F., only son of Hugh C. Cadden, aged 51 years. Western Australian papers please copy. Funeral notice, Tuesday's paper.

NOTE:

The **New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen** consisted of four mounted rifle squadrons and underwent several name changes, from the New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen, to the Australian Bushmen Contingent, and then finally the 1st Bushmen Regiment. The unit was raised in early 1900 and funded by public subscription, hence "citizens" in its title. The objective was to enlist a regiment of men from the country who were "acquainted" with the "vicissitudes of bush life" - good shots, good riders, and good physiques. Preference was given to men who had previously served in South Africa, as well as to those who had lived and worked in rural Australia.

The New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen was the third contingent sent by New South Wales to the war in South Africa. The contingent consisted of 30 officers and 495 other ranks, with 570 horses. The unit left Sydney on 28 February 1900, on board the transports Atlantian and Maplemore, and arrived in Cape Town on 2 April.

DOUDNEY, Guy Lionel Hastings (Lieutenant)

Service Number: 750

Date of Birth: 1st quarter 1881

Place of Birth: New Romney Marsh, Kent

Baptised: 3rd May 1881 at Romney Marsh

Unit: NSW Lancers (Trooper)

Unit: 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles (Lieutenant)

Date of Embarkation: 10th October 1899

Parents: Dr Edwin Doudney (First Dr at Cottage Hospital Port Macquarie) and Ada Frances Gallagher

Married: (1) Helen Dransfield (b.1918) in 1910 at Sydney, and (2) Doris Nellie Ross (b.1898)

Date of Death: 13th August 1953

Place of Death: Cape Town South Africa

Notes: Born in England he came out to Australia with his mother and siblings in August 1894. He was in England with the Parramatta half squadron of the Lancers when the Boer War commenced. The Regiment had been in Great Britain where they participated in the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. When war was declared they were transported to South Africa. The Lancers contributed a squadron that had served under John French in Lord Roberts' army, and participated in a counter-invasion of the Orange Free State that eventually lifted the Siege of Kimberley in 1900. He sailed from England on 10th October 1899, arriving at Cape Town on 2nd November 1899. Brother of R V Doudney.



1891 Census Devon of Doudney Family at Compton Gifford

Edwin Doudney	Head	M	44	Physician & Surgeon (Registered)	New Romney
Ada do	Wife	M	40		Island Limerick
Guy L. H. do	Son	M	10		New Romney
Robert V. do	do	M	9		do
Hugh do	do	M	7		do
Gertrude do	Daughter	F	10		Devon 7 Wood Park Compton Gifford
Janet Woods	Visitor	F	20	Living on her own means	London Clapham
Louisa G. Sanders	Visitor	F	28	Governess School	Devon Exeter
Maria-Maria Doudney	Visitor	F	15		New Romney
Total of Males and Females...				11	20

Letter from South Africa.

THE following very interesting letter was received from Lieutenant Guy Doudney (now serving under General Remington in South Africa) by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Doudney:—

"Had a terrible time since leaving Greylingstad; went to bed at the hotel the night I wrote, but could not sleep for fleas. The three previous nights I was trekking most of the time. I joined the column the next day, and marched at night, also the five following nights, from dark till sunrise as a rule, and plant in good cover all day, when it is too jolly hot to sleep. On the 5th day out, we had left the convoy on a chase when it was attacked in force by the enemy. Luckily, General Remington was overtaken and informed, and he raced back with the mounted troops, grasping the situation at once. He sent 'D' squadron to charge a farm-house which sheltered close on a hundred Boers. We fixed bayonets and galloped like fury; the Dutchmen pumped lead for a bit, but would not wait for us, and when we reached the farm they were 400 or 500 yards away on the other side. It was no use chasing them, so we pasted them out of range. We kept an interval of two horses' lengths between each man when charging, and not a man or horse was hit. The attack on the convoy failed. Our casualties were one officer and 4 or 5 men killed, and the Boers' Commandant was found dead with one other.

We camped at midday, and the Boers sniped the camp all day, their guns continually firing. Ammunition running short, and on account of information to the effect that 2000 Boers under De Wet were to attack camp at night, the 'G' gave us half-an-hour's notice and moved at midnight. Raining, no road; 14 waggons got bogged and were abandoned. We blundered on about ten Boers sleeping in farmhouses out of the rain. We camped about 4 p.m.; utterly tired out. I had my bivouac pitched, and turned in without waiting for grub, and slept like a log till awakened by heavy firing about 10.30 p.m. The camp was attacked, and the men turned out smartly and kept very cool. About half of the horses stampeded. The 'G' called to the Australians to give three cheers, and everyone started and made the deuce of a row; the firing stopped then; the cheering, I suppose, made the Boers think we were ready for them. The casualties were—three men wounded and about twenty horses hit. I was sent with a troop to strengthen outposts. The men were so tired they could not do their watch, so I had to do it myself; they were not to be trusted.

It rained like the mischief, and we got soaked to the skin. At daylight, instead of the attack being renewed, we found the enemy gone. Intelligence people say that De Wet, with between 800 and 1000 men, surrounded the camp, but from information they gathered from nigger spies, the Dutchmen could not agree amongst themselves and the attack fell through. I suppose none of them would make the rush first. They must have known we were short of ammunition, but how they find out I can't guess.

We came here the following day, and have had two days' rest, or, rather, what is called rest. There is more tomfoolery in a standing camp here than we had in barracks at Aldershot.

The last was the roughest trek we have had as yet, by far, and nobody wants another like it. No more now."



PMN 18th January 1902 p2

DOUDNEY, Rupert Vere (Lieutenant)

Date of Birth: April 1882

Place of Birth: New Romney, Kent, England

Baptised: 29th May 1882 at New Romney

Enlisted: Port Macquarie

Unit: 3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse

Date of Embarkation: 1st April 1902

Embarked Ship: Manhattan

Arrival: 11th August

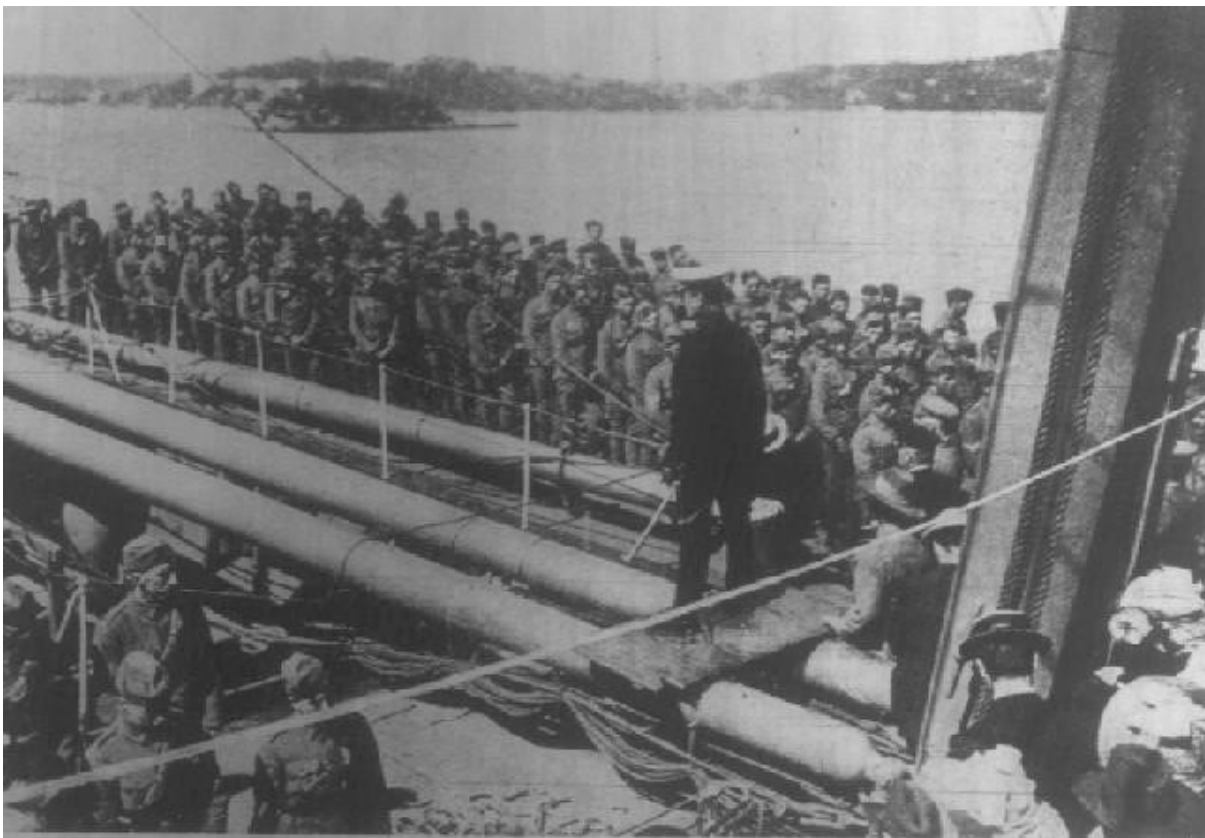
Parents: Dr Edwin Doudney and Ada Frances Gallagher

Married: Edith Ethel Trimnell in 2nd quarter 1908 in Kent

Date of Death: 20th May 1950

Place of Death: Roehampton, Middlesex England

Notes: Son of Edwin Doudney and Ada Frances Gallagher. Brother of Guy Doudney. Born in England he came out to Australia with his mother and siblings in August 1894. He had previous service with the Parramatta Half Squadron of the Lancers. Later served in World War One as a Captain and later Major with the 3rd London Regiment and later as Major with the Royal Army Service Corps.



General Hutton addressing troops of the 3rd ACH prior to departure.

THIRD BATTALION AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH HORSE.

THIS was formed upon the same basis as the first, viz., three units from New South Wales, one from Queensland, and one from Tasmania.

Establishment, rates of pay, &c., were as for the other regiment.

Applicants to enrol were required to be able to ride and shoot and to pass military medical examination. Only single men were accepted; the period of service being one year, or the duration of the war. Applicants for commissions were required to state age, physique, previous military service (especially in South Africa), occupation, if accustomed to country life and travelling in the bush, whether any knowledge of map reading, and general experience of country life in Australia.

REFERENCE TO ORDERS.

Formation ..	..	..	G.O. 27/02
Pay and allowances ..	..	..	„ 3, 4 and 14/02 —
Allotment of pay ..	..	..	„ 10/02
Equipment ..	..	..	„ 4/02
Accounts ..	..	..	„ 10/02
Enrolment, conditions of	..	..	„ 14/02
Establishment ..	..	..	„ 1/02, and 2/02
Embarkation ..	..	..	D.O. 111, of 26th March, 1902
Nomenclature ..	..	..	„ 239, of 22nd April, 1902

CLOTHING, ETC.

Uniform consisted of F.S. jacket, pants, puttees, and hat. Equipped with rifles, bayonets, bandoliers, saddlery, and fully horsed.

SUMMARY.

The staff and head-quarter companies left Sydney on 2nd April, 1902, comprising 19 officers and 352 non-commissioned officers and rank and file, with 372 horses. Six died, 4 officers and 62 others were struck off in South Africa, 15 officers, 284 others returned to New South Wales, arriving on 11th August, 1902.

SERVICE.

The New South Wales division of the 3rd Battalion, Australian Commonwealth Horse, embarked at Sydney on transport *Manhattan* on 1st April, and arrived at Durban on 30th April, 1902.

At Durban it entrained a few days afterwards for Newcastle, where it proceeded into camp at Kitchener's Kop, in the vicinity of that town, awaiting orders to proceed to the Transvaal. Here the Queensland and Tasmanian squadrons joined. *Vide* those Contingents.

Upon peace being concluded, the battalion returned to Durban on 11th July, and embarked on transport *Drayton Grange* on the following day. Called at Albany and Melbourne *en route*, and arrived at Sydney on 11th August.

As in previous Contingents, most of the officers, N.C.O.'s, and men had served before. Those who had not were awarded Queen's Medal, with one clasp.

HAMPSON, Wright Harrison (Trooper)

Service Number: 490

Date of Birth: 1848

Place of Birth: Salem, Massachusetts (USA)

Unit: NSW Citizen Bushmen

Date of Embarkation: 28th February 1900

Arrival: 16th November

Parents: Wright Harrison and Isabella Emmeline Hampson (*nee* Reid)

Married: Isabella Reid at Rollands Plains in 1870. Remarried to Rosetta Collins in 1891 in Sydney.

Date of Death: 29th August 1929 aged 82.

Place of Death: Sydney

Notes: Invalided home. His parents emigrated to Australia from England via the United States of America. Wright and two siblings were born in the USA. The family arrived in 1854 and settled in the Macleay Valley and had five more children.



HILL, Archibald Usher (Quarter Master Sergeant)

Service Number: 559 (Imperial Bushmen) 364 (Bechuanaland Rifles)

Date of Birth: 18th January 1874

Place of Birth: Parramatta NSW

Unit: 6th Imperial Bushmen (1yr 9mths) and South African Bechuanaland Rifles (9mths)

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 in Sydney

Married: Kimberly Coralie Alhambra Marsden 20th February 1907 at Blayney (NSW)

Date of Death: 2nd February 1946

Place of Death: Blayney

Notes: Son of William and Susan Reed Russell Hill (*nee* Glasson). Served in World War One and also in the Citizens Military Forces during World War Two.



Wedding Day 20 Feb 1907
HILL Archibald Usher 1874-1946

HOLLIS, Joseph Dowling (Private)

Date of Birth: 8th June 1878

Place of Birth: Yarras, Hastings River

Enlisted: Queensland

Unit: 4th Queensland Imperial Bushmen

Service Number: 117

Date of Embarkation: 8th May 1900

Embarked Ship: Manchester Port

Arrival: 1st September 1900

Parents: Joseph and Johanna Hollis (*nee* Laney)

Date of Death: 2nd June 1959

Place of Death: Rockhampton (QLD)

Notes: Living in Queensland around Gympie at time of enlistment.

Invalided home, suffered from Enteric Fever



KENNEDY, Donald Cameron (Private)

Service Number: 156

Date of Birth: 1878

Place of Birth: Ellenborough

Unit: 6th Imperial Bushmen

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 in Sydney

Parents: Angus and Mary Kennedy (*nee* Cameron)

Married: Ruth Coombes (1885-1979) in 1905 had three children

Date of Death: 11th July 1947 aged 69. Buried Port Macquarie General Cemetery.

Place of Death: Port Macquarie

Notes: Son of Angus and Mary Kennedy (*nee* Cameron) of Clunesly. He had a farm called Catarbit/Catharbal at Yarras.



1905



OBITUARY

MR. D. C. KENNEDY

The death occurred on 11th July, following a short illness in the Hastings District Hospital, of Mr. Donald Cameron Kennedy, a well-known resident of Birdwood, Forbes River. The late Mr. Kennedy was 69 years of age and was born at Catharbai on the Upper Hastings. A son of the late Angus and Mary Kennedy, of Clunesly and Beechwood, he lived most of his life in the Hastings district, following farming pursuits. In his early years he served in the South African War with the 6th Imperial Bushmen. In 1905 he married Ruth, the youngest daughter of Mrs. Coombes and the late Mr. Edward Coombes, of Forbes River. Later on he joined the Forestry as a Forest Guard, and served for a few years in different places in Northern N.S.W., especially on the Dorrigo and at Coopernook, Manning River. He returned to the land and bought property on the Forbes River. The late Mr. Kennedy is survived by a sorrowing wife, one son, Stanley and one daughter, Molly (Mrs. Jeff Harris), and six grandchildren. One son, Angus, was accidentally killed by a tree during the 1923 flood. Sisters and brother of deceased are Emily (Mrs. Jack Warrail, of Comboyne), Annie (Mrs. Lance Bosanquet, Forbes River), Flora (Port Macquarie), and Kate (Mrs. Gordon Bosanquet, Port Macquarie), and Mr. Alistair Kennedy (Taree). One sister, Lyn, predeceased her brother. On 12th July, the funeral took place to the Port Macquarie cemetery, where Rev. J. A. Harman (Free Presbyterian) officiated at the graveside.

Manning River Times 19th July 1947 p.4



Donald Kennedy at Gilgandra 1921

McPHERSON, Neil (Trooper)

Service Number: 1924

Date of Birth: 10th April 1865

Place of Birth: Dingo Creek, near Wingham

Unit: "A" Squadron NSW Mounted Rifles

Married: Never married

Date of Death: 26th October 1939 aged 74

Place of Death: 43 Ormond Street, Ashfield NSW (while staying with his sister).

Buried Rookwood.

Notes: Son of James and Jane McPherson (*nee* Campbell). Obituary in the Manning River Times 4th November 1939 p.2

Mr. Neil McPherson.

On Thursday, October 26th, 1939, in Sydney, a very fine native of the Upper Manning, in the person of Mr. Neil McPherson, passed away. Mr. McPherson had been staying with his sister (Mrs. Fozzard) at Ashfield for about 12 months.

The late Mr. McPherson was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James McPherson, and was born at Dingo Creek, near Wingham. He was never married. Deceased had lived most of his time at Dingo Creek, though for a few years he resided in Sydney and Maitland. During the Boer War, Mr. McPherson volunteered for service, and spent some time with the Australian troops in South Africa.

Two brothers now remain—Mr. John McPherson, J.P. (Marlee), and Mr. Donald McPherson (William Street, Wingham). Two sisters also survive their brother—Mrs. Dorward (Harrington), and Mrs. Fozzard (Sydney).

The late Mr. Neil McPherson was a genial, good-hearted man, and his passing, at the age of 74 years, will be regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances throughout the Manning district.

The funeral took place on Friday, 27th October, the remains of deceased being laid to rest in the Rookwood Cemetery.

Mr. Neil McPherson, formerly of Ashlea, is on a visit to his Manning friends. It is 17 years since he left this district, during which time he travelled extensively in Africa and New

The Wingham Chronicle and Manning River Observer 31st May 1916 p2

NOAKES, David Peter 'Jack' (Shoeing smith)

Service Number: 491

Date of Birth: 2nd January 1878

Place of Birth: Telegraph Point

Unit: 1st NSW Mounted Rifles

Date of Embarkation: 17th January 1900

Embarked Ship: Southern Cross

Parents: James and Sarah Noakes (*nee* Wilson)

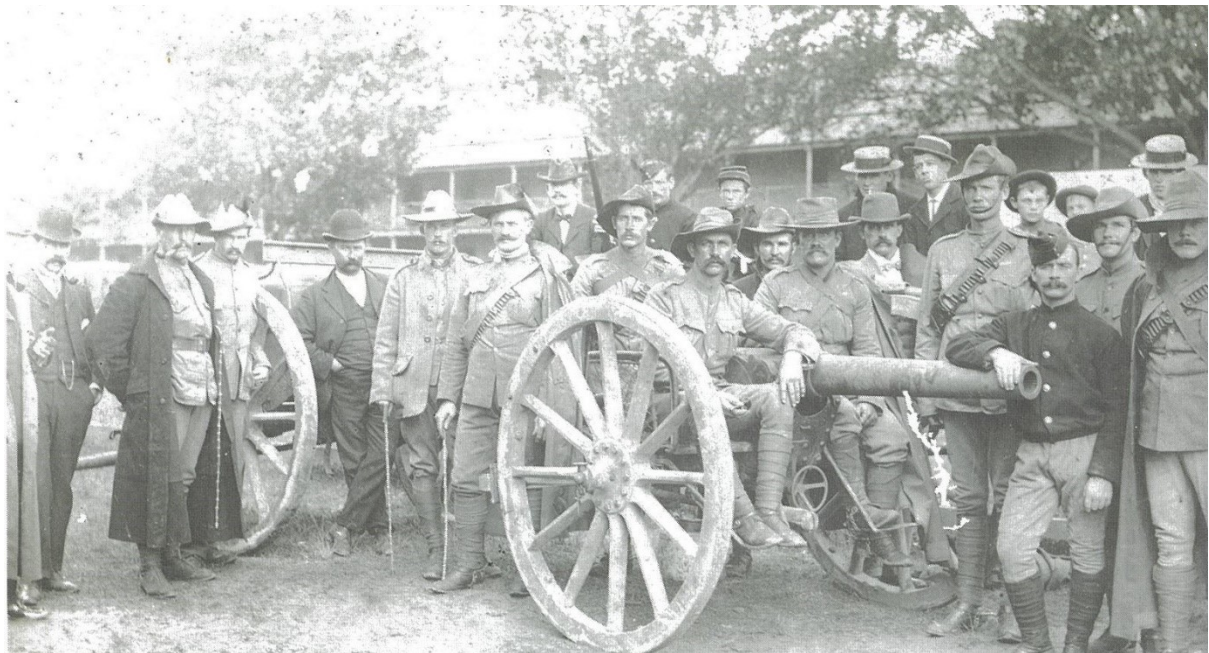
Married: Married Lydia E N Gander 23rd March 1905 at Redfern and had three children

Date of Death: September 1965

Place of Death: Balmain district

Notes: Apprentice Blacksmith with A H Bartrim at Beechwood prior to enlistment

(Below: J Noakes of Ellenborough, second from right. The photograph was taken by his sister Mrs E. Wallace of Wauchope.)



NOAKES, Robert Hastings (Trooper)

Service Number: 1888

Date of Birth: 29th May 1881

Place of Birth: Clifton Hill, Port Macquarie

Unit: 1st Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse

Date of Embarkation: 18th February 1902

Embarked Ship: Custodian

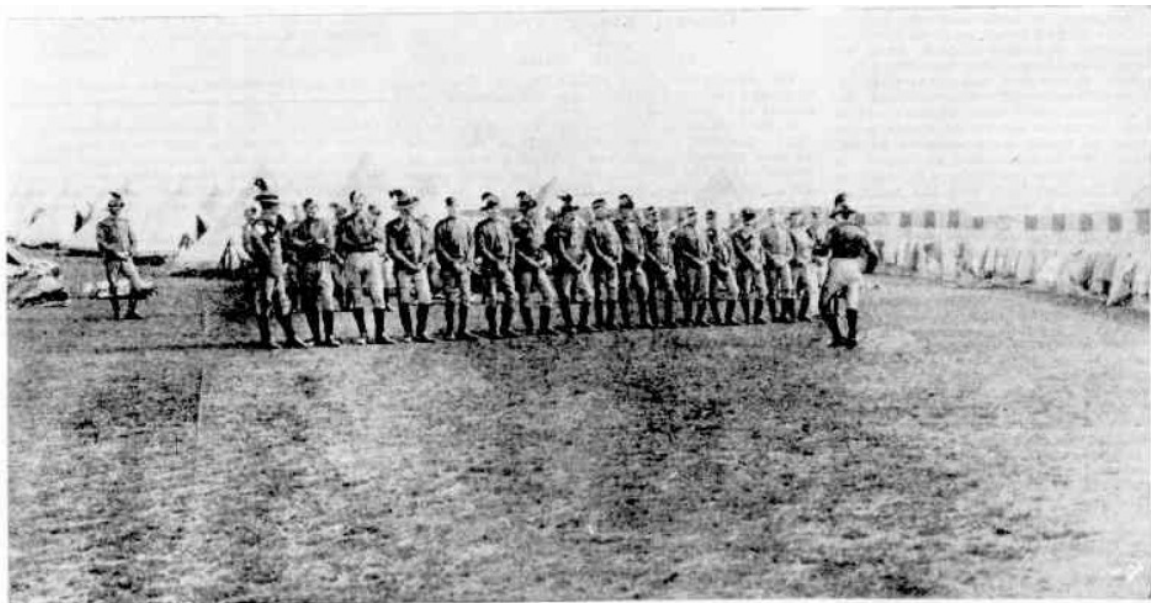
Parents: James and Sarah Noakes (nee Wilson)

Married: Eva Mary Cumming (1881-1969) in 1910
at St Stephens Newtown. They had two children.

Date of Death: 19th June 1962

Place of Death: Concord Military Hospital

Notes: Enlisted with the Royal Australian Artillery at 19 before serving in the Boer War. He returned to Sydney working at Middle Head on garrison duty before retiring from the service due to ill health. He had a severe haemorrhage as a result of the firing of the guns. In 1939 he enlisted in the Army Citizens Military Forces. He later lived at Ellenborough and Port Macquarie. Obituary PMN 19th June 1962 page 4.



N.S.W. MOUNTED RIFLES—ROLL CALL

Service Number: 2110
Date of Birth: 5th September 1879
Place of Birth: 'Belvedere' Hastings River
Unit: 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles
Date of Embarkation: 21st March 1901
Embarked Ship: British Princess
Arrival: 3rd June 1902
Parents: James and Sarah Noakes (*nee* Wilson)
Married: Mary Ann Toms (1887-1917) on 12th
 December 1906 at Beechwood and had
 three children
Date of Death: 2nd November 1959
Place of Death: Lismore
Notes: Served under Lt Cadden and Lt Doudney.
 An article on the Noakes family that appeared in the
 Port Macquarie Express of 19th December 1990
 suggested that he was wounded and went missing
 before turning up at No. 22 general Hospital in
 Pretoria for repatriation home.

PMN 7TH December 1901 p2 p

Letter from South Africa.

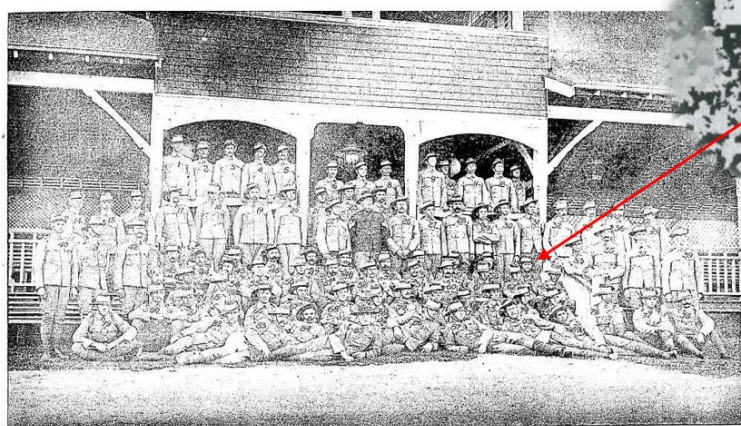
We have received the following letter for publication:—

Heilbron Hospital,
South Africa.
Sept. 17., 1901.

Dear Mother—I am sending you a few lines to let you know how I am. I am in the hospital with measles this time. I am up to day for the first time; for seven days I was pretty laid out with the column in the Ambulance, but as soon as I got into the Hospital, I began to get better. I will have to do another fortnight in here, and then back to work again. I was lucky to get in here when I did, for they have had some very bad weather since I left.

I thought we would have got home this month (Sept.), but I find we will have to stay our 12 months out here, but I don't mind while it keeps fine, but I am afraid of the wet weather, which will soon be in now. Our column has been kept going ever since the 5th of May; we have hardly had a day's spell except when we come in for provisions and then it is load up and away again. Our old leader, General Remington, is a great man for night-marching, and often we are kept going night and day with only a few hours' rest in the middle of the day, but we have done some good work since we came out. Neil McPherson is with us yet and quiet well. Remember me to all my old friends, and tell them I will be glad to get back to Australia again. We don't know what war is like till we get here and have to put up with all sorts of hardships.

W. A. KOAKES.



"A" SQUADRON

[illegible]

Australian Town & Country Journal 9th March 1901 p.21

RUTHVEN Charles Kenneth Gowrie (Lance Sergeant)

Service Number: 603

Date of Birth: 7th July 1876

Place of Birth: 'Winbourn', Mulgoa (NSW)

Unit: Imperial Bushmen

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 in Sydney

Parents: Edward Southward Gowrie Ruthven and Isabel Eliza Wilshire.

Married: Mary Clementine Manton (1877-1949) at Newtown in 1907

Date of Death: 27th December 1914

Place of Death: Buried at Waverley Cemetery, Sydney.



RUTHVEN, Edward Southwell Gowrie (Lance Corporal)

Service Number: 602

Date of Birth: 26th February 1880

Place of Birth: Port Macquarie

Unit: Imperial Bushmen

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901

Parents: Edward Southward Gowrie Ruthven and Isabel Eliza Wilshire.

Married: Ruby Kathleen Hilda Collings 7th September 1907 in Glebe

Date of Death: 28th August 1946

Place of Death: Petersham. Buried Waverley.



Departure of the NSW Imperial Bushmen, Sydney, February 1900

RUTHVEN John Lowry (Jnr) (Trooper)

Service Number: 641

Date of Birth: 15th June 1881

Place of Birth: 'Gowrie' Hastings River Port Macquarie

Unit: 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles

Date of Embarkation: 17th March 1901

Embarked Ship: Custodian

Parents: John Lowry Ruthven and Zilla Elizabeth Foxlowe Hosking

Married: Ruby Cobcroft Paterson (1883-1952) at St Phillips Church, Church Hill, Sydney 18th April 1908

Date of Death: 18th December 1956

Place of Death: Double Bay. Cremated Northern Suburbs Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, North Ryde.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A04337

Troops of the 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles crossing the Orange River

RUTHVEN John Lowry (Snr)

Date of Birth: c1851

Place of Birth: Paddington NSW

Married: Zilla Elizabeth Foxlowe Hosking on 9th August 1871 and had 13 children

Date of Death: 2nd October 1936

Place of Death: Mosman, Sydney. Buried Waverley.

Notes: Also known locally as the 'Earl of Gowrie.' Commissioned by the Imperial Government to take a shipload of horses to South Africa. He contributed to the Hastings area in a variety of ways including establishing a sugar plantation and Mill in the 1870s on his Gowrie property where he built his home and also a bacon curing station at Gowrie, Ennis which he ran until it closed in 1893. He also built the houses 'Arncliffe', off Hill Street, Port Macquarie and 'Ruthven Hill'.

SPENCE, Michael Mervyn Macquarie 'Mick' (Trooper)

Service Number: 1503

Date of Birth: 14th October 1880

Place of Birth: Port Macquarie

Unit: Kitchener's Horse

Unit: 3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse

Date of Embarkation: 1st April

Embarked Ship: Manhattan

Arrival: 11th August 1902

Parents: William Andrew and Elizabeth Spence (*nee* Mahoney)

Date of Death: 1942

Place of Death: Wyong

Notes: Rejected by the army in Australia. Instead travelled overseas on a freighter taking horses to the war and joined the British Army. Wounded he was evacuated home. After he recovered he joined the Australian forces. He later served as a Private in WW1, service no. 2400 (*see* 'They Crossed the Ocean', Port Macquarie Hastings Library). His Grandfather Michael Spence arrived in Port Macquarie about 1833 and worked as a storekeeper and postmaster in the town.



Commonwealth Contingent for Service in South Africa.

ATTESTATION of No. 1503 Name Mervyn Spence
 Joined at SYDNEY, N. S. W.
 On FEB. 5 1902

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS.
1. What is your name?	1. <u>Mervyn Spence.</u>
2. What is your place of birth?	2. <u>Port Macquarie</u>
3. Are you a British subject?	3. <u>ES.</u>
4. What is your age?	4. <u>21</u> years <u>3</u> months.
5. What is your trade or calling?	5. <u>clerk</u>
6. Are you married?	6. <u>No</u>
7. Who is your next-of-kin, and what is the address of same, and degree of relationship?	7. <u>Father Mr. A. Port Macquarie</u>
8. Particulars of any previous service in present South African war, and state in what Contingent enrolled, and if discharged.	8. <u>6 months Kitchener Horse.</u>
9. Are you willing to serve for a period of 12 months, or for the duration of war, in the Contingent for service in South Africa with His Majesty's forces?	9. <u>YES</u>
10. Are you willing to be vaccinated, or re-vaccinated, if deemed advisable?	10. <u>YES</u>
11. Present permanent address?	11. <u>Port Macquarie</u>
12. Religion?	12. <u>Angl</u>

I, Mervyn Spence do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements made for service under the Imperial Government, and that I have no claim on the Commonwealth Government, and that I do not expect to receive for myself, or any of my relations, any compensation whatsoever from the Commonwealth Government in case of my disablement or death.

Mervyn Spence Signature Frank Malloy
 Signature of Witness.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

I have examined the above-named applicant and can certify that he is medically fit for service in South Africa.

Height 5 feet 8 inches.

Chest measurement 32 1/2 inches.

Complexion Fair

Eyes blue

Hair Brown

Distinctive marks None inside left hip

Reuter & Roth.

Signature of Medical Officer.

* One to be struck out and initialled by Medical Officer.

OATH TO BE TAKEN ON ATTESTATION.

I, Mervyn Spence do make oath that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to His Majesty, His heirs and successors, and that I will, as in duty bound, honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty his heirs and successors in person, Crown, and dignity against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, his heirs and successors, and of the Generals and Officers set over me.

So help me, God.

Mervyn Spence Signature Frank Malloy
 Signature of Witness.

Sworn before me

Justice of the Peace.

STEWART, James Arthur Wallace (Trooper)

Service Number: 541

Date of Birth: 28th January 1873

Place of Birth: 'Killivinning', Maria River, Port Macquarie District

Unit: 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles

Date of Embarkation: 17th March 1901

Embarked Ship: Custodian

Arrival: 4th June 1902

Parents: Clement and Margaret Stewart (*nee* Wallace) of 'Cornbury Park' Rollands Plains

Married: Emily Anne Mackay (1875-1959) at Sydney in 1909

Date of Death: 22nd October 1962

Place of Death: Kyogle Memorial Hospital

Notes: He took part in the relief of Mafeking under Lord Baden-Powell. Had a dairy farm at Cawongla in the Kyogle district, and for many years led the ANZAC Day march at Kyogle. At one time had a property at Ballengarra. Following his return from South Africa he worked in Sydney. (See death notice PMN 6th November 1967 p.7)



TRIM, William Patrick (Private)

Service Number: 631

Date of Birth: 12th August 1880

Place of Birth: Armidale

Enlisted: 31st March 1900

Unit: Imperial Bushmen

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 in Sydney

Parents: William John and Bridget Ann Trim (*nee* Fitzgerald)

Married: Catherine Anne Nelson (1881-1926) in 1906 in Sydney

Date of Death: 5th April 1919

Place of Death: South Balmain

Notes: William completed his tour of duty and then returned home and opened a saddlers shop in Wauchope. He worked for 15 years prior to his death on the railways in Sydney. His parents operated the Tattersalls Hotel and later the Royal Hotel in Port Macquarie (1901).

Obituary.

MR. WILLIAM P. TRIM.

On Saturday Mr. W. J. Trim, of Taree, received a telegram announcing the death in Sydney of his eldest son, Mr. William Patrick Trim. The cause of death was stated to be pneumonia. Deceased was only 35 years of age.

The late Mr. Trim was well known on the Manning, having frequently visited his father here on holiday. The fishing grounds of Harrington were his favorite resorts. He was an exceptionally fine type of man, big, robust, and apparently the embodiment of perfect health. He had a 45-inch chest measurement, and had never known sickness. Having lived a good, clean life, he supplied a fine example of "sound mind and sound body." Those locally who knew him will join with his relatives and friends in deeply regretting the early death of a worthy young man.

The deceased had been for many years employed in the Sydney tramway service, and was a driver at the time of his demise. He leaves a widow (who is a daughter of Police Superintendent Nelson, of Melbourne) and one son.

About 1000 persons attended the funeral. The corpse was carried from the hearse to the grave by members of the tramway service; and the tramway band played funeral music.

Mr. Trim, son., left Taree for Sydney on Saturday night, and returned after a brief stay with the family.

Northern Champion 9 April 1919 p3

TRIM.—On the 5th April, at his residence, No. 112 Evans-street, Rozelle, Sydney, William Patrick, the dearly beloved husband of Catherine Trim, loving father of Ronnie, loved son-in-law of John and Julia Nelson, Richmond, Victoria, aged 38.
May his soul rest in peace.

The Age 8th April 1919 p.1

WALSH, Christopher W. (Lance Corporal)

Service Number: 2466

Date of Birth: 26 November 1879

Place of Birth: Beechwood

Enlisted: 3rd Imperial Bushmen

Arrival: 8 November 1901

Parents: Francis and Catherine Walsh (*nee* Barrie)

Married: Lucy Trueman in Sydney in 1912 and had seven children

Date of Death: 2nd July 1962

Place of Death: Port Macquarie

Notes: His unit was formed at Transvaal on 4th May 1901. Christopher was invalided home in November 1901. Prior to the war he was a baker with his brother John in Kempsey. Later he was a ferry master at Blackman's point. Obituary (PMN 12 July 1962 p.9)



OBITUARY

MR. C. W. WALSH

Mr. Christopher W. Walsh, of Port Macquarie, a Boer War veteran who died on July 2, at the age of 83 years, was born at Beechwood, on the Hastings River.

His death followed a long illness; he was a retired ferrymaster and had many faithful years service at Blackman's Point.

He made a big effort in November last and attended the "Old Diggers" reunion held here at Armistice time, and was the only Boer War veteran present.

Deceased was married in Sydney to Lucy Trueman on 12th July 1912 p.9

Mr. Walsh, along with the members of their family, viz., Marjorie (Mrs. Kyle, Stanmore), Beryl (Mrs. Merv. Radley, Port Macquarie), Claire (Mrs. Shoemack, Pendle Hills), Colleen (Mrs. Dallas, Taree), Barry and Mona (Port Macquarie), Shannon (Port Moresby).

A guard of honour was formed by members of the R.S.L. and G.U.O.O.F. Lodge when the funeral cortege moved from the Church of St. Agnes.

The interment was made in the Roman Catholic portion of Port Macquarie cemetery, with Messrs. M. Radley, J. Walsh, N. Dallas, and B. Walsh acting as pallbearers.

WALSH, James (Trooper) Cape Special Police

Service Number: 66

Date of Birth: October 1869

Place of Birth: Port Macquarie

Unit: 3rd NSW Imperial Bushmen

Parents: Francis and Catherine Walsh (*nee* Barrie)

Married: Married in South Africa

Date of Death: 1953

Place of Death: South Africa

Notes: Before the war he was a carpenter and travelled to South Africa prior to 1900

WALSH, John (Corporal)

Date of Birth: 9th May 1874

Place of Birth: East Kempsey

Enlisted: Joined in South Africa

Unit: 2nd NSW Mounted Rifles

Date of Embarkation: possibly 21 March 1901

Arrival: 4th June 1902

Parents: Francis and Catherine Walsh (*nee* Barrie)

Married: Theresa Adelaide O'Doherty (1881-1958)
on 5th April 1905.

Date of Death: 25th June 1957

Place of Death: Ashfield

Notes: Prior to the war he was a baker at Wauchope and steam/marine engineer. On his return to the Hastings he worked on the tug 'Undaunted' as an engineer, on Blackman's point ferry and later on his own launches 'Shamrock' and 'Ostra' providing a delivery service of cream supplies between farmers and the Port Macquarie Butter Factory.



WILLIAMS, T - not found

Notes: Only mention is in a letter in the Port Macquarie News, written from South Africa, mentioning that he may be going to hospital. The letter is from T. Williams, Camden Haven. The letter mentions Saul, who is possibly Saul Williams.



Troop ships heading to South Africa. On the right is the transport ship 'Custodian'

Appendix One

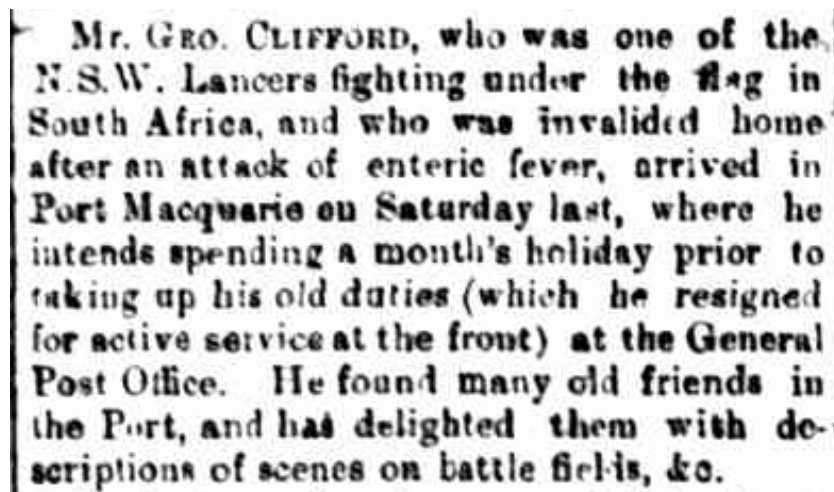
Other local men who served in the South African Wars but who are not listed on the memorial.

BUNTINE, Robert (Doctor)

Notes: The brother of Reverend H.S. Buntine, a Presbyterian Minister who was serving in Port Macquarie at the time.

CLIFFORD, George (Private/Lance Corporal)

Notes: - not found



Mr. GEO. CLIFFORD, who was one of the N.S.W. Lancers fighting under the flag in South Africa, and who was invalided home after an attack of enteric fever, arrived in Port Macquarie on Saturday last, where he intends spending a month's holiday prior to taking up his old duties (which he resigned for active service at the front) at the General Post Office. He found many old friends in the Port, and has delighted them with descriptions of scenes on battle fields, &c.

PMN 3RD November 1900 p2

CONDON, James

Notes: migrated for business to South Africa before war commenced and was caught up in the conflict.

COOK, William Frederick (Private)

Service Number: 512

Date of Birth: 21st June 1878

Place of Birth: Sydney

Enlisted: Light Horse

Date of Embarkation: 23rd April 1900

Embarked Ship: Armenian

Departure Ship: Orient

Arrival: 17th July 1901 to Sydney

Parents: Joseph Blain and Mary Selina Hawthorne Cook (*nee* White)

Married: Ada Knowles

Date of Death: 26th May 1960

Place of Death: Port Macquarie

Notes: Met his future wife in South Africa where she was working as a nurse

DEATH OF BOER WAR VETERAN

A notable identity, veteran of the Boer War, Mr. William Frederick Cook, died peacefully in the Hastings District Hospital at Port Macquarie on Thursday last.

Deceased was a native of Sydney and would have celebrated his 84th birthday this month.

He first knew Port Macquarie as a child, when he frequently visited his grandmother, Mrs. Chapman, at her homestead at Sapling Creek.

There the coaches used to halt for refreshments and the late Mr. Cook often recounted to his family more thrilling times when notorious bushrangers would call in and be given a meal.

This adventurous spirit displayed so early in his life led him to the Boer War, as a member of the Light Horse.

In service in Africa he lost the sight of one eye, and

hospital treatment in London followed.

There he met and married Nurse Ada Knowles, who survives him together with their four children.

They are Mr. Arthur Cook (Q'land), Norman (Sydney), Mrs. Norman Gale (Brisbane), and Mrs. W. Banfield (Sydney).

There are three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Also surviving are three brothers of deceased, Messrs. F. W., Norm., and Harold, and two sisters, Mrs. Geo. Suttie, and Mrs. Alice Holloway, all of Sydney.

The late Mr. Cook was a builder by trade, and spent 35 years of his life here. His

eye injury prevented him from active service in World War 1, but he spent the whole of that period in uniform at Liverpool Camp.

Members of the R.S.L. paid their last respects at his funeral on Saturday, when the interment was made in the Church of England portion of Port Macquarie Cemetery after a service in the Church of St. Thomas.

KENT, Ernest (Private)

Service number: 69

Date of Birth: 6th December 1876

Place of Birth: Birmingham, England

Parents: John Henry and Ann Alithea Kent (*nee* Totty)

Married: Ruby Alice Groom in Eden, N.S.W. 30th May 1903 and had 13 children

Date of Death: 15th July 1962

Place of Death: Port Macquarie

Notes: Joined the British army to fight in South Africa. Came to Australia in 1902 and was soon followed by his future wife Ruby Alice Groom. Later lived at Comboyne, Wauchope, and eventually Port Macquarie. He worked at the Old Butter Factory at Comboyne and introduced ice cream to the area.

Obituary PMN 19th July 1962 p4



Photo Above: Ernest Kent Snr with Muscha and Rover, 1904

Hastings Shire Gazette
19th July 1962 p.4

OBITUARY

Mr. Ernest Kent

A Boer War veteran who served under both Lord Baden-Powell and Sir A. Conan Doyle, passed to rest in the W.D.M. Hospital on Saturday last.

He was Mr. Ernest Kent who, incidentally, introduced ice-cream to the Comboyne.

The late Mr. Kent, who was 87 years of age, was born in England and joined the British Army to serve in the South African War of 1899-1902.

Sixty-two years ago he came to Australia, settling at Eden, on the NSW South Coast, where he married Ruby Alice Groom. Moving northwards, Mr. Kent worked in the old butter factory at Comboyne, and it was there that he made the first ice-cream the plateau inhabitants had ever known.

Mr. Kent then joined the late A. B. Fossey and travelled extensively throughout the State, remaining with Fosseys for thirty years and eventually being a branch manager in the city area.

Of late he had been residing with his son, Bill, in Wauchope. Mrs. Kent is now living in Port Macquarie, and surviving members of the family are Les (Wauchope), Edna (Mrs. A. S. Moyle, E.S.A. Bank, Jamboree, South Coast), Ruby (Mrs. Harris, Griffith), Ernest ("Bill," Wauchope), Charles (Huntingdon), Cecil (Tweed Heads) Nita (Mrs. Henderson, Guildford), Valton (Hibbard), Keith and Victor (Port Macquarie), and Shirley (Mrs. J. McCudden, Grafton). Two sons, Roy and James predeceased their father.

There are also 18 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

On Monday the funeral, under the direction of Mr. Les Piggott, moved from St. Matthew's, Wauchope, for the Port Macquarie Cemetery, the Rev. Steep performing the last sad rites.

McCROSSIN, John Alexander (Trooper)

Service Number: 1994

Date of Birth: 1883

Place of Birth: Uralla

Unit: 3rd NSW Mounted Rifles

Date of Embarkation: March 15th 1901

Embarked Ship: Maplemore

Married: Ellen May Apted (1881-1973)

Date of Death: 14th November 1939 (SMH)

Place of Death: Bondi

Notes: Son of William Samuel and Marion Argyle McCrossin (*nee* Mulholland)

Notes: Also spelt McCrossan in some sources. He was a relieving Post Master at Wauchope when he enlisted as a telegraph Operator serving under R. N. Cadden

McLENNAN, T

Notes: Listed in Manning Newspapers as being from Bulga/Ellenborough.

MARTIN, Sydney Edgar (Corporal)

Notes: Served in the Boer War with the 1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles and was invalided home on 8th October 1901. While not a local, he is mentioned in some local publications as his brother Francis George Martin married Laura Annie Blair of Port Macquarie in 1893.

O'DONNELL, Eugene Dudley

Date of Birth: 1881

Place of Birth: Vegetable Creek, N.S.W.

Enlisted: Joined in South Africa

Unit: Kitchener's Light Horse

Embarked Ship: Australian

Parents: Daniel Maurice and Jane O'Connell (*nee* Rankin)

Married: Margaret Meaney Chapman (1878-1966)

Date of Death: 1956

Place of Death: Chatswood

Notes: Not accepted by the Australian authorities, he travelled overseas and enlisted with the British Army. His sister Elizabeth married Alexander Blair Butler of Port Macquarie. His travels over to the war and his return were published in letters to Port Macquarie News.

WILLIAMS, Saul

Notes: Believed to be brother of T. Williams who mentioned him in a letter home from Myerton South Africa saying he may go to hospital

WOODLANDS, Arthur Douglas

Date of Birth: 28th October 1877

Place of Birth: (near) Wauchope:

Embarked Ship: s.s. Moravian

Date of Embarkation: 14th April

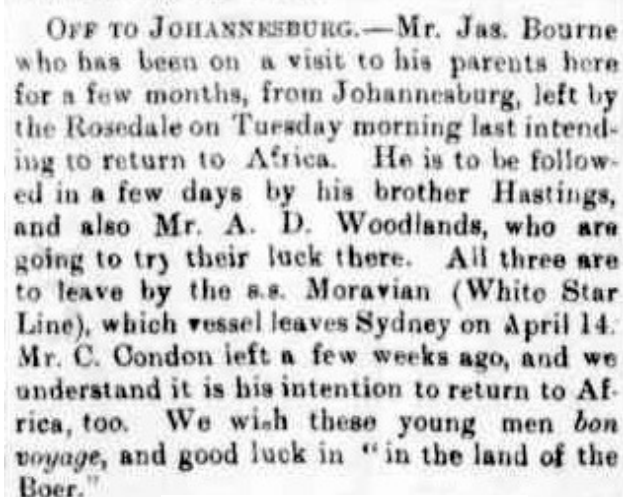
Parents: Richard and Elizabeth Woodlands (*nee* Boltwood)

Married: Clara Amies (1879-1948)
10th July 1909 at Ashfield. Divorced
November 1932.

Date of Death: 5th October 1947

Place of Death: Liverpool. Buried at
Rookwood 8th October 1947.

Notes: Enlisted in World War One Service No. 2489. Noted on his enlistment papers that he was in the Royal Engineers in the South African War. No record has been found to date of his service in South Africa.



OFF TO JOHANNESBURG.—Mr. Jas. Bourne who has been on a visit to his parents here for a few months, from Johannesburg, left by the Rosedale on Tuesday morning last intending to return to Africa. He is to be followed in a few days by his brother Hastings, and also Mr. A. D. Woodlands, who are going to try their luck there. All three are to leave by the s.s. Moravian (White Star Line), which vessel leaves Sydney on April 14. Mr. C. Condon left a few weeks ago, and we understand it is his intention to return to Africa, too. We wish these young men *bon voyage*, and good luck in "in the land of the Boer."

PMN 8th April 1899 p.2

Appendix Two

Southern Africa showing boundaries, main rivers, railways and major towns 1899-1902



Appendix Three

New South Wales Contingents to the South African Wars 1899-1902

New South Wales Departures and Arrivals		
CONTINGENT	DEPARTED	RETURNED
New South Wales Lancers - 1st Draft	October 10, 1899	December 6, 1900 January 8, 1901
New South Wales Lancers - 2nd Draft	October 28, 1899	" " "
New South Wales Lancers - 3rd Draft	January 17, 1900	" " "
New South Wales Lancers - 4th Draft	February 16, 1900	" " "
1st New South Wales Army Medical Corps	October 28, 1899	December 8, 1900 January 8, 1901
2nd New South Wales Army Medical Corps	January 17, 1900	" " "
3rd Imperial Draft Army Medical Corps (NSW)	March 17, 1901	June 3, 1902
4th Commonwealth Army Medical Corps (NSW)	February 11, 1902	July 1902
New South Wales Mounted Rifles	November 3, 1899	January 8, 1901
New South Wales Infantry	November 3, 1899	January 8, 1901
1st Australian Horse (NSW)	November 14, 1899	May 2, 1901
2nd Australian Horse (NSW)	January 17, 1900	May 2, 1901
Royal Australian Artillery (NSW)	December 30, 1899	September 15, 1901
Royal Australian Artillery (NSW) - Draft	March 15, 1901	September 15, 1901
1st New South Wales Mounted Rifles	January 17, 1900	April 29, 1901
New South Wales Citizens' Bushmen	February 28, 1900	June 11, 1901
1st New South Wales Imperial Bushmen	April 23, 1900	June 17, 1901
2nd New South Wales Mounted Rifles	March 15, 1901	June 4, 1902
3rd New South Wales Mounted Rifles	March 15 & 21, 1901	June 3, 1902
3rd New South Wales Mounted Rifles - Draft	April 5, 1901	June 3, 1902
3rd New South Wales Imperial Bushmen	.....	August 11, 1902
1st Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse	February 18, 1902	August 11, 1902
3rd Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse	April 1, 1902	August 11, 1902
5th Battalion Australian Commonwealth Horse	May 22, 1902	August 1, 1902

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 1.

SUMMARY OF ALL MILITARY CONTINGENTS SENT FROM NEW SOUTH WALES TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Transports, &c.

Name of Transport.	Date of embarkation.	Date of disembarkation.	Officers.	N.C. Officers and men.	Total.	Horses.	Carts and Waggon.	Guns.
s.s. <i>Nineveh</i> ..	1899. 9 Oct.	1899. 2 Nov.	2	69	71	..	..	..
s.s. <i>Kent</i> ..	28 ..	1 Dec.	11	119	130	180	22	..
s.s. <i>Aberdeen</i> ..	3 Nov.	7 ..	11	193	204	49	8	1
s.s. <i>Langton Grange</i> ..	14 ..	13 ..	4	57	61	117	1	..
s.s. <i>Warrigal</i> ..	30 Dec.	1900. 5 Feb.	9	170	179	141	17	6
s.s. <i>Southern Cross</i> ..	1900. 17 Jan.	17 Feb.	20	433	453	475	17	..
s.s. <i>Moravian</i> ..	17 ..	18 ..	18	120	138	81	17	..
s.s. <i>Surrey</i> ..	17 ..	23 ..	8	103	111	117	5	..
s.s. <i>Australasian</i> ..	16 Feb.	19 Mar.	2	41	43	45	1	..
s.s. <i>Maplemore</i> ..	28 ..	4 Apr.	10	172	182	211	6	..
s.s. <i>Atlantian</i> ..	28 ..	2 ..	23	327	350	396	11	..
s.s. <i>Armenian</i> ..	23 Apr.	17 May	40	722	762	748	32	..
s.s. <i>Custodian</i> ..	1901. 15 Mar.	1901. 13 Apr.	25	496	521	518	..	..
s.s. <i>Maplemore</i> ..	15 ..	12 ..	22	488	510	481	2	..
s.s. <i>British Princess</i> ..	21 ..	17 ..	18	397	415	408	..	..
s.s. <i>Ranee</i> ..	21 ..	23 ..	13	234	247	234	..	..
s.s. <i>Antillian</i> ..	5 Apr.	12 May	12	367	379	356	..	..
s.s. <i>Manchester Merchant</i> ..	1902. 11 Feb.	1902. 17 Mar.	8	97	105	70	4	..
s.s. <i>Custodian</i> ..	18 Feb.	17 ..	20	355	375	375	..	..
s.s. <i>Manhattan</i> ..	1 Apr.	2 May	25	569	594	385	..	..
s.s. <i>Menelaus</i> ..	10 May	11 June	3	25	28	147	..	..
s.s. <i>Columbian</i> ..	22 ..	19 ..	23	446	469	343	..	..
Total ..	..	..	327	6,000	6,327	5,877	143	7

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 2.

SUMMARY OF ALL MILITARY CONTINGENTS SENT FROM NEW SOUTH WALES TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Classification.

Classification.						Officers.	N.C. Officers and men.	Total.	Horses.
.									
Lancers	..	..	..	..	..	7	158	165	190
Australian Horse	..	..	..	..	..	7	132	139	152
Mounted Rifles	..	..	..	..	..	59	1,450	1,509	1,477
Mounted Infantry	..	..	..	..	..	16	383	399	413
Bushmen	..	..	..	..	..	142	3,090	3,232	3,116
Artillery	..	..	..	..	..	6	214	220	160
Infantry	..	..	..	..	..	4	121	125	9
Army Medical Corps and Medical Officers						37	340	377	275
Nurses (Women)	..	..	..	..	..	2	12	14	..
Chaplains	..	..	..	..	..	16	2	18	1
Special Service	..	..	..	..	..	17	9	26	14
Veterinary Department	..	..	..	..	..	11	4	15	2
Spare—									
Draft	..	..	..	..	..	1	85	86	..
Unallotted	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	68
Total						327	6,000	6,327	5,877

Appendix Four

Medals Issued

Australians served in the Boer War, initially as members of the State Colonial forces and after Federation with Commonwealth units. Others who were unable to join Colonial or Commonwealth units enlisted in forces raised by other nations including Britain and South Africa.

Two campaign medals were issued for the Boer War during this period – the Queen's South Africa Medal and, after the death of Queen Victoria, the King's South Africa Medal. Eligible Australians were awarded one or two medals according to their period of service.

Queen's South Africa medal

Description

The Queen's South Africa Medal was awarded for service in the Boer War in South Africa. The Australian colonies raised units and a number of Australians who were not able to join Australian units enlisted in British and South African units.

Design

The medal is a silver and bronze medal with the crowned and veiled head of Queen Victoria on the obverse.

The reverse has Britannia with a flag in her left hand holding out a laurel wreath to a party of advancing soldiers. In the background are two warships. Below the wreath the dates '1899-1900' are shown. Around the top are the words 'SOUTH AFRICA'.

Ribbon

The ribbon has a broad orange central stripe flanked by two dark blue stripes and red edges.



King's South Africa medal

Description

Following Queen Victoria's death during the South African War, King Edward VII authorised a medal to be awarded to all who were serving in South Africa on or after 1 January 1902, and who would complete 18 months' service before 1 June 1902. The medal was never issued alone, but always with the Queen's Medal.

Design

The medal is silver with the bust of King Edward VII on the obverse. The reverse is the same as the Queen's South Africa Medal.

Ribbon

The ribbon has stripes of green, white and orange.



Images and text courtesy Australian Government Defence

Second Regiment N.S.W. Mounted Rifles—Presentation of Medals on Sunday Last.



Source: Australian Town & Country Journal 11th November 1903 p.35